

**Molecular Microbiology**

Code: 100952  
ECTS Credits: 6

Degree	Type	Year	Semester
2500253 Biotechnology	OB	2	2

## Contact

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## Teaching groups languages

You can check it through this [link](#). To consult the language you will need to enter the CODE of the subject. Please note that this information is provisional until 30 November 2023.

## Prerequisites

- Students are advised to review the scientific-technical content on which this subject is based
- It is also advisable to take this course once the following subjects scheduled in the first year of the Degree of Biotechnology have been studied: Genetics, Biochemistry, Organic Chemistry and Cell Biology. It is also recommended to have taken or are taking the subjects Microbiology, Biology and Molecular Genetics programmed in the second year of the same Degree.

## Objectives and Contextualisation

It is a compulsory subject of the Biotechnology Bachelor, which introduces students to the knowledge of Molecular Microbiology. This subject is fundamental in the formation of the student since it enables him to understand the functioning of prokaryotes at the molecular level, allowing an understanding of the potential of microorganisms at the productive level as well as their possible applications.

The specific objectives to be achieved in this subject are the following:

- Know how to identify at the molecular level the mechanisms and microbiological processes
- Know how to identify the structure of the prokaryotic genetic material, know its mechanisms of replication and repair as well as the organizational variability they present and the relationship between these mechanisms and the cell cycle.
- Recognize the factors that control gene expression in prokaryotes and relate them to existing environmental conditions.
- To know the molecular mechanisms existing in prokaryotic organisms to control the entry of exogenous genetic material.
- Know the different genetic elements existing in prokaryotes, their distribution capacity and control systems for expression of the genes they include.
- Recognize the molecular basis of antibiotic resistance, its origins, transmission mechanisms and the impact they have on infectious processes.

## Competences

- Describe the molecular, cellular and physiological bases of the organisation, functioning and integration of living organisms in the framework of their application to biotechnological processes.
- Interpret experimental results and identify consistent and inconsistent elements.
- Reason in a critical manner
- Work individually and in teams

## Learning Outcomes

1. Describe the molecular, cellular and physiological bases of the organisation, functioning and integration of microorganisms in the framework of their application to biotechnological processes.
2. Interpret experimental results and identify consistent and inconsistent elements.
3. Reason in a critical manner
4. Work individually and in teams

## Content

The subject is organized in two distinct parts

- Theoretical classes
- Resolution of practical cases, in which the theoretical concepts developed in the theoretical classes will be applied for the resolution of problems and real cases of the subject matter.

The content of the subject consists of the following subjects:

Lesson 1. The bacterial chromosome. Structure of the bacterial chromosome. Start replication. Replication, termination and segregation of the bacterial chromosome. Cellular division. The bacterial cell cycle.

Lesson 2. Gene Expression in Prokaryotes I. Structure of bacterial promoters. Monocistronic and polycistronic RNAs. Start and elongation of the bacterial transcript. Bacterial transcription terminators. Degradation of the mRNA. Transcription in archaea. Transcriptional attenuation and regulation of transcription.

Lesson 3. Gene expression in prokaryotes II. Global modulators of gene expression. Multigenic networks. Stressful response. Repression by catabolite. Positive and negative transcriptional regulation. Transcriptional regulators. Bacterial operons. Posttranscriptional regulations. Regulones. Regulatory RNAs.

Lesson 4. Mutagenesis and DNA repair systems in bacteria. Conditional lethal mutations. Suppressor mutations. Mismatch repair. Photoreactivation. Reparation by excision. Adaptive response to alkylating agents. Emergency repair response or SOS system.

Lesson 5. Mobile genetic elements in bacteria. Insertion sequences. Transposons. Transposition mechanisms and their regulation. Mutagenesis with transposons. Mobile pathogenicity islands. Integrones. Other Mobile genetic elements.

Lesson 6. Bacteriophages and Transduction. Attenuated and lytic bacteriophages. Lambda and P22 bacteriophages as attenuated bacteriophage models. Restricted, generalized and lateral transduction. Phage conversion.

Lesson 7. Defense systems in prokaryotes. Innate immunity in prokaryotes: Prevention of Phage Attachment and Entry. Superinfection Exclusion Systems. Abortive Infection. Restriction-Modification Systems. Adaptive immunity in prokaryotes: CRISPR

Lesson 8. Plasmids. Molecular structure and property of plasmids. Mechanisms of maintenance. Aggregation and cointegration of plasmids. Replication. Incompatibility groups.

Lesson 9. Conjugation and Transformation. Plasmid conjugation in Gram-negative and Gram-positive cells. Mobilization of the bacterial chromosome. Other conjugative elements (ICEs). Importance of the conjugative elements in the evolution of the microbial world. Natural transformation. Competence state. Molecular mechanisms associated with natural transformation. Induced transformation.

Lesson 10. Mechanisms of antimicrobial resistance. Plasmid resistance. Chromosomal resistance. Mechanisms of antimicrobial inactivation. Synthesis of alternative enzymes. Resistances by alternative metabolic pathways. Modifications of cellular structures by plasmid enzymes. Mechanisms of distribution of plasmid resistances.

## Methodology

The subject of Molecular Microbiology consists of two modules of activities:

Theoretical module: composed of participatory master classes.

Case studies module: consisting of sessions in which practical cases and problems will be solved.

These classes are sessions with a reduced number of students with the dual mission of:

A) To facilitate the understanding of the knowledge exposed in the theoretical classes. The resolution of practical cases should enable the student to integrate theoretical knowledge with practical aspects.

B) To train the student to design basic experiments associated with the subject of the subject and to know how to interpret the obtained data.

At the beginning of the course the student will receive a dossier with a proposal of problems that must be developed during the course. The sessions of this module deal with methodological aspects and solve some of the problems of the dossier.

With the aim that the concepts to be used in the sessions of resolution of practical cases are always coordinated with the contents already developed in the theory classes, in certain moments of the course reordering and / or exchanges between the classes of theory and problems. The autonomous activities of this subject are: study, reading of texts and resolution of problems. Finally, the student also has individual tutorials, which will be held in hours previously agreed.

Annotation: Within the schedule set by the centre or degree programme, 15 minutes of one class will be reserved for students to evaluate their lecturers and their courses or modules through questionnaires.

## Activities

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Type: Directed			
Participatory master classes	32	1.28	1, 3
Practical cases resolution	18	0.72	1, 2, 3, 4
Type: Supervised			
Individual tutorials	1	0.04	1, 2
Type: Autonomous			
Autonomous practical cases resolution	30	1.2	1, 2, 3, 4
Reading of recommended texts	5	0.2	1
Study	58	2.32	1, 2, 3

## Assessment

The evaluation of this subject may be individual and continuous or as single assessment and will be done through written tests, in which the student must demonstrate the degree of achievement of the subject concepts through theory questions and with the resolution of problems.

At mid semester, there will be a first evaluation block consisting of two different tests, one based on theory questions, with a specific weight of 10% of the total of the subject, and another of problems solving, with a value of 40%. Both tests will include all concepts developed up to that moment in the theory sessions and in the resolution classes of practical cases.

At the end of the semester the second evaluation block will be carried out, also composed of a test of theory questions (with a value of 10%) and another based on the resolution of problems (with a weight of 40% of the total of the subject). This second part will include all the concepts worked on the theory classes and in the problem-solving classes that have not been evaluated in the first test.

The final grade of the subject will be the average of the marks obtained in both evaluation blocks, as long as none of them has obtained a score lower than 4. This average must necessarily be equal to or greater than 5 to pass the course. In the event that it is lower, the student must submit to the recovery test. The student can choose between examining the whole subject or only the evaluation block in which he has obtained the lowest mark. In the latter case, the final grade will be determined through the average with the mark obtained in the exam that has not been repeated. To pass the subject, this average must be greater than or equal to 5.

Those students who have not passed the value of 4 in one or in both evaluation blocks will have to examine the pending evaluation block or blocks through a retake process. In the event that the recovery of a single block is made, the grade obtained in this test will average with the mark achieved in the previously passed block, being necessary that this average is greater than or equal to 5 to pass the subject. If it is necessary to retake the two evaluation blocks, the final grade will be the one obtained in this recovery test and that must be at least 5 to pass the course. To be eligible to participate in the retake process, the student should have been previously evaluated in a set of activities equaling at least two-thirds of the final score of the course.

The single assessment consists of a single summary test in which the contents of the entire theory program of the subject will be assessed and in which the ability to solve problems will also be assessed. The grade obtained in this synthesis test will account for 100% of the final grade of the subject. This test will be scheduled on the same day as the test for the 2nd part of the continuous assessment. To pass it, the grade must be equal to or higher than 5. Otherwise, it will be necessary to take the recovery test, which will be a test equivalent to the first in which the student must obtain a rating equal to or higher than 5 to be able to pass the subject.

Students who have passed the two evaluation blocks or the single assessment can take a test to improve the final grade that will take place on the date scheduled for the recovery test. The presentation to the improvement exam can be for the subject corresponding to a single evaluation block or both and implies the rejection of the preliminary qualification in the block or blocks that will be reevaluated. If the two blocks are reevaluated, the final grade of the subject will be the score achieved in this improvement test and must be greater than or equal to 5. If only one block is reevaluated, the final grade of the subject will be the average of the mark obtained in this improvement test with the one obtained in the block that has not been reevaluated. In this case, the average should also be equal to or greater than 5 to pass the course.

Students who wish to take the improvement test for one or both blocks must inform the teacher responsible for the subject in writing at least 72 hours before the scheduled day for the recovery test.

Students will be graded as "Non-Evaluable" if the weight in of all conducted evaluation activities is lower than 67% of the final score.

## Assessment Activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Problems exam (1st block)	40% of the total of the subject	2	0.08	1, 2, 3, 4
Problems exam (2nd block)	40% of the total of the subject	2	0.08	1, 2, 3, 4
Theory written exam (1st block)	10% of the total of the subject	1	0.04	1, 2, 3, 4
Theory written exam (2nd block)	10% of the total of the subject	1	0.04	1, 2, 3, 4

## Bibliography

Tina M. Henkin & Joseph E. Peters. Snyder and Champness Molecular Genetics of Bacteria (5th Edition). Wiley- Blackwell (ISBN: 978-1-555-81975-0)

Jeremy W. Dale & Simon F. Park. Molecular Genetics of Bacteria, (5th Edition) Wiley- Blackwell (ISBN: 978-0-470-74184-9)

All bibliography related with the matter will be available through the Campus Virtual.

## Software

No specific software is expected to be used in this course